

General Assembly

Thursday, September 9th, 2021 – 4:30 pm
Pere Marquette River Room – Kirkhof Center

Chair: Autumn Mueller

Parliamentarian: Emma Suchecki

Student Senate will cultivate a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered.

I. **Call Meeting to Order: 4:32pm**

a. Moment of Silence

i. Native Land Recognition

b. Student Senate Creed

- i. We, as members of Grand Valley State University's Student Senate, dedicate ourselves to cultivating a student body that is engaged, healthy, and empowered. We pledge to represent all students and their diverse, ever-changing needs. With persistency, intentionality, and integrity, we strive to create a Laker experience that is equitable, accessible, and sustainable.

c. Pledge of Allegiance

d. Roll Call - Part I

II. **Public Comment – Part I**

- a. Unnamed individual speaks on behalf of Students for Food Sovereignty in regards to email from campus dining regarding the lack of employees. Claims that this is because the working conditions and way the food is prepared is unethical. States that if this is fixed, the employment issue would be fixed.

III. **Guest Speakers**

a. Reaching Higher 2025 Presentation: Mark Schaub

i. Joined by Janet Winter and Tara Bivens

- ii. Representing the steering committee with great student representation, several have now graduated.

iii. Their target date is in November at the board of trustees meeting

- iv. www.gvsu.edu/reachhigher2025 is frequently updated and provides a lot of information about who the committee is

v. Strategic development process and timeline:

(1) engaging the community: Sept 2019-Sept 2020

(2) Shaping the strategy: Oct 2020- Apr 2021

(3) Define and Integrate: Apr-Oct 2021

(4) Endorsements and Unit planning: Oct-Nov 2021- current stage

- vi. Asking for a voice of support from the student senate so that they could share the input received from the student senate with the board of trustees



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- vii. Values, vision and mission are listed on the website, invites you to look at these at your leisure
- viii. They are committed to the learner and empowering students to be lifelong learners. “If you are not empowered to share your learning that you gained with your degree, how could you be a lifelong learner?”
- ix. They are committed to creating transformative equity and a sense of belonging. Ensures that their community serves as a catalyst towards a more just and sustainable world.
- x. Hopes that you will join the mission of the steering community and endorse the Reach Higher 2025 committee
- xi. VP Kidd asks about the equity in education and if they have looked into increasing equity on campus by making textbooks more accessible with open educational resources
 - (1) Schaub responds that this is not their mission or job currently but acknowledges that he knows that this is an issue. Winter adds that she compliments her passion on this topic.
 - (2) Kidd follows up that since this is a prominent issue how does this get moved forward in the universities' priorities.
 - (3) Schaub promises on his behalf that this will be in the mix of the problems that he wants to address in his college.
- xii. Senator Pearson asks if their job is to bring the issues forward and not to necessarily implement them.
 - (a) Winter addresses that their main job is to listen and hone in on their values and mission and then find out their priorities
 - (2) Pearson follows up with a suggestion to let students know that they have been heard, maybe by putting a list of the issues that are being worked on onto the website or replying back to students
 - (a) Winter appreciates the suggestions and Schaub points out that emails have been sent to all students in the past
- xiii. Senator Wilson asks who will be in charge of implementing the changes and asks if there is anything the student body can do



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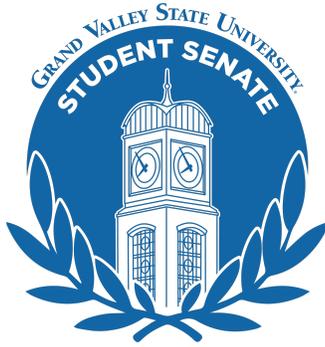
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- (1) Schaub acknowledges that these are just the tactics and the actual plan of action is to be carried out by the division that the issue falls under and where the decisions lie, such as campus dining and each individual college. They are dealing with the what and the how is next but not their current mission.
 - (2) Winter adds that in this time they are looking at their remaining goals and what aligns with their values and mission and this has to be done before November. She also acknowledges that she will look at her college and what she can do individually. Look at their values and you will see that many of their values align with the values of the student senate and encourages you to dive in and take a good look at their values.
 - (3) Advisor Baker-Boosamra extends her thanks for their appearance and reminds the senators that this is a prime example of the democratic process and that this is meant as a “north star” in the campus community and this is a set of tactics that the whole campus body can move towards. This is an invitation and a great set of tools to use as the senators work towards their goals for this year.
 - xiv. VP Frappier clarifies that they are looking for the voice of the student senate to give approval when they seek approval at the board of trustees meeting in November and then after approval is when the senate can look at implementing the change.
 - xv. President Mueller extends her gratitude for their appearance and states that the Student Senate will be moving forward with a statement of approval.
- IV. Five (5) Minutes to Pass the Papers**
- a. EVP Suchecki passes around the sign ups for the 9/11 memorial and Constitution day tabling event
 - b. VP Kidd asks that you slack her or VP Gineman if you are interested in helping with the 9/11 service project
 - c. EVP Suchecki clarifies that it does not need to be a physical paper or student senate related to be presented at this point in the meeting
- V. President’s Report- President Mueller**
- a. Adoption of the Agenda
 - i. VP Krichevsky motions to add 5 new line items under item XIII above line a for the appointments of Nancy Hoogwerf, Jackson Ingalls, Nabin Khanal, Alexa Cheaney, and a five minute break to swear in the new senators.



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(1) Seconded by EVP Suchecki

(2) Passes unanimously

b. Reminders

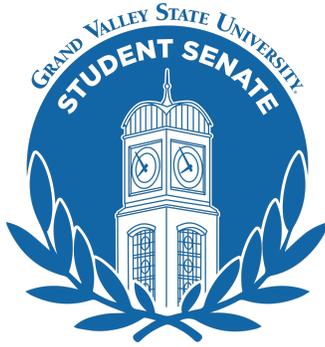
- i. Cabinet meets on Mondays at 6:00pm, feel free to join, this counts as office hours
- ii. Reminder to fill out contact sheet in google drive during office hours
- iii. There is no GA next week, but there is a required training at 4:30pm in Pere Marquette room
- iv. Check slack frequently for updates
- v. CSLC event Map Michigan's Future in Grand River Room on September 16th 1:00-4:00pm and 5:00-8:00pm, highly encourages you to stop by
- vi. Highly encourages senators to stop by or help with 9/11 events. Would love for you to join at 6:00am to put up flags.

c. Updates

- i. First student senate newsletter went out to all students this week, very exciting
- ii. First time the student senate has been on the front page of the lanthorn, also very exciting
- iii. Virus Action Team gave report on how many students are vaccinated- 68% of the student body is currently vaccinated
 - (1) those that are not vaccinated by September 30th will be unenrolled from their winter 2022 classes
- iv. Great questions asked during Reach Higher, will be issuing a statement of approval that will be sent in slack for approval
- v. Legislation procedures will be reviewed in Inservice
- vi. Cabinet will be participating in a book review tomorrow with Advisor Baker-Boosamra
- vii. Provost search committee will be meeting so reach out if you have things you would like to see

d. Questions

- i. Senator Pearson asks if attire for training next week is business casual
 - (a) President Mueller states that it is VP Kidd and VP Ginneman's birthday and they are requesting you to wear pink if you wish to do that.
- ii. Senator Huggins asks if there will be a vote on the statement for reach higher 2025



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- (1) President Mueller states that there will only be room for comments for adjustments and there will be 24 hours to do so
 - (2) EVP Suchecki offers point of clarification that she is a student representative on this committee and would be happy to pass along any questions or bring some of you to the zoom meetings if you would like
 - (3) Cabinet will be voting on the statement once it sits in the slack for 24 hours
 - iii. Senator Mayfield asks the date of required vaccination
 - (1) Mueller states that it is September 30th and you report that in your self assessment
 - (2) Point of information is asked if uploading a picture of your vaccination card is a violation of HIPPA
 - (a) Senator Kalafut states that HIPAA is only between medical professionals and patients
 - (b) President Mueller clarifies that you do not have to upload a picture, only provide the dates you received your vaccination
 - (3) Senator Mayfield asks about exemptions to the vaccination
 - (a) EVP O'Neil clarifies that you can apply for an exemption by September 15th
 - (b) EVP Suchecki clarifies that the exemptions are reviewed not only by the university's virus action team but also by medical professionals and religious superiors
- VI. **Executive Vice President's Report-** EVP Suchecki
- a. Approval of the Minutes
 - i. Changes made to the minutes from 9.2.21 under VP O'Neil's report
 - (1) Originally: **Allocations** – Jim O'Neil
 - (a) Working with OSL over summer for a smooth transition between funds.
 - (b) Will be talking more about funds during inservice
 - (c) Senators sitting on his committee have received
 - ii. Changed to: **Allocations** – Jim O'Neil
 - (1) Working with OSL over summer for a smooth transition between funds.
 - (2) Will be talking more about funds during inservice
 - (3) Senators sitting on his committee have received funding training.
 - iii. Changes to the minutes are approved
 - b. Report



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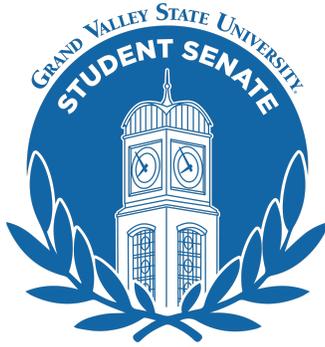
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- i. Hopes that classes are going well, reminds everyone that time management is essential, we're all in this together just like High School Musical says
- ii. Month of September is extremely important and filled with events and projects. Challenges the body of senators to work together towards shared goals. One of these shared goals is being successful for BOV.
- iii. Will be working with Senator Cargill and athletics to hopefully broadcast the football game against SVSU at Lubbers stadium
- iv. This weekend there are several 9/11 20 year anniversary memorial events and encourages you to attend and/or volunteer at these events:
 - (1) Flags set up in Kirkhoff Center East Lawn
 - (2) Service project with VP Kidd and VP Gineman: letter-writing table in Lot C North from 4-7 p.m., where GVSU students can write thank-you letters to veterans
 - (3) VP Pearson clarifies that media outlets will be at the memorial events and senators are not permitted to speak on behalf of the senate body
- v. Will be handing out name tags and pins after inservice
- vi. University committees need to be reporting at every GA if you met that week and your individual reports need to be added to the folder in your committee drive

VII. Unfinished Business

VIII. New Business

- a. Appointment of Nancy Hoogwerf
 - i. VP Pearson states that Hoogwerf's passion is commendable and is confident that she will excel as a member of PRC.
 - ii. VP Pearson motions for Hoogwerf to join the general body as a member of SRC
 - iii. Seconded by VP Gineman
 - iv. Passed unanimously
 - (1) 1 abstention
 - v. Joins the senate body
- b. Appointment of Jackson Ingalls
 - i. VP Zdynczyk states that Ingalls is a fine match to the CAC and will do well
 - ii. EVP Suchecki motions to bring Jackson to the general body and join as a member of CAC



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- iii. Seconded by VP Pearson
- iv. Passes unanimously
- v. Joins the senate body
- c. Appointment of Nabin Khanal
 - i. VP Krichevsky motions to add Lizzie Connel to the general body as a member of EAC
 - ii. Seconded by VP Kidd
 - iii. Passes unanimously
 - iv. VP Kidd would love to have Khanal on the EAC committee. As an international student he will add diversity to the committee
 - v. Joins the senate body
- d. Appointment of Alexa Cheaney
 - i. VP Krichevsky motions to add Cheaney to the general body as a member of the ERC committee
 - ii. Seconded by VP Pearson
 - iii. Passes unanimously
 - iv. VP Frappier states that Cheaney has great communication skills and will be a great addition to ERC
 - v. Joins the senate body
- e. 5 minute break at 5:38- new members are sworn in
 - i. Meeting resumed at 5:46
- f. What is the Student Senate? Training
 - i. Presented by President Mueller
 - ii. Goes over mission, purpose, vision
 - iii. Student senate history
 - iv. What is student senate overview
 - (1) Elected body of students, university department, apolitical
 - v. How to write legislation
 - (1) EVP Suchecki reminds everyone that if they need help with legislation to reach out
 - (2) VP Krichevsky reminds everyone that legislation takes a sufficient amount of time



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- (3) VP Kidd requests President Mueller to go over the process of presenting legislation and getting it approved
- (4) VP Frappier reminds everyone to treat legislation like a very important paper because many people at the university will be reading it. Clarifies that you do not have to work on legislation alone.
- vi. Tips to engage in civil discourse around difficult topics
- vii. Speaking rights
- viii. Representation by seat- each senator represents roughly 500 students
- g. Inservice Training- getting new senators acclimated to student senate
 - i. Presented by VP Krichevsky
 - ii. General Assembly Agenda information
 - iii. Advisor role presented by Advisor Baker-Boosamra
 - iv. Cabinet Membership
 - (1) President's role presented by President Mueller
 - (2) Executive Vice President's Role presented by EVP Suchecki
 - (3) VP of Senate Resources's role presented by Alexis Krichevsky
 - (a) "Human resources" for student senate
 - (4) VP of Allocations's role presented by Jim O'Neil
 - (a) Administration of the student life fund allocation process
 - (5) VP of Public Relations's role presented by Eldon Pearson
 - (a) Runs social media channels, senate email and website
 - (b) If a senator wants to use the Student Senate logo or header you must get it approved
 - (6) VP of Campus Affairs's role presented by Alyson Zdynczyk
 - (a) Follow up on issues pertaining to housing, campus security, services ect.
 - (b) Interact with campus officials to make sure that student goals are met
 - (c) Maintain liaisons with student support services
 - (d) Put on yearly events and work with different departments and RSOs
 - (7) VP Educational Affairs's role presented by Faith Kidd
 - (a) Interact with various colleges to connect them with their student's needs
 - (b) Promote and improve on the resources available to non traditional students



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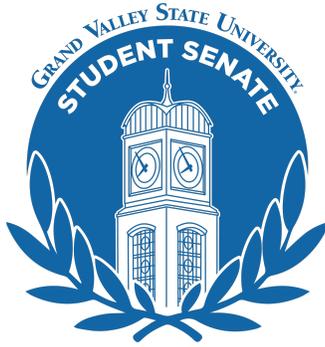
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- (c) Promote the use of open educational resources available to students
- (8) VP Diversity Affairs's role presented by Kyle Gineman
 - (a) Establish contacts with the social justice centers on campus
 - (b) Assist with the cultural funding board
 - (c) Build a stronger relationship with cultural organizations
- (9) VP external Relations's role presented by Justin Frappier
 - (a) Student government outreach, local government outreach, philanthropic/community service initiatives, and other capacities
- v. Cabinet transparency
- vi. Senator expectations and accountability
- vii. Speaking on behalf of senate
- viii. SRC policies and procedures
 - (1) Read on own time
- ix. Office hours
 - (1) Two office hours are required each week
- x. Conduct review board
- xi. Professionalism
- xii. Ownership of self
 - (1) Communicate and work together
- xiii. Senate culture
 - (1) Advice from senators:
 - (a) EVP Suchecki suggests to come to the cabinet with struggles and concerns, they are always willing to listen
 - (b) VP Kidd highly suggests using the random slack channel
 - (c) Senator Pearson suggests making friends on senate
 - (d) VP Pearson points out that he met his closest friends on senate
 - (e) Senator Wheeler suggests going to bonding events
 - (f) VP Frappier reminds everyone to snap and avoiding clapping
 - (i) EVP Suchecki offers clarification that you can clap after guest speakers
- xiv. Senate buddies
- xv. Projects



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xvi. Student Senate Priorities as a body for 2021

- (1) Open communication
- (2) Involvement
- (3) Engagement
- (4) Transparency
- (5) Education
- (6) Representation

xvii. The importance of pronouns presented by VP Gineman

- (1) Demonstrate respect and courtesy for the other's identity
- (2) Making an assumption sends a potentially harmful message

h. Robert's Rules Training

i. Motion to table Robert's Rules Training to next meeting under unfinished business

- (1) Seconded by VP Kidd
- (2) Passes unanimously

ii. Motion to strike numbers X, XI, XII of the agenda for the purpose of time

- (1) Seconded by VP Gineman
- (2) Passes unanimously

~~i. CALL FOR NEW ORDERS OF THE DAY~~

~~IX. Public Comment – Part II~~

~~X. Officer Reports~~

~~a. Senate Resources – Alexis Krichevsky~~

~~b. Allocations – Jim O'Neil~~

~~c. Public Relations – Eldon Pearson~~

~~d. Campus Affairs – Alyson Zdynczyk~~

~~e. Educational Affairs – Faith Kidd~~

~~f. Diversity Affairs – Kyle Gineman~~

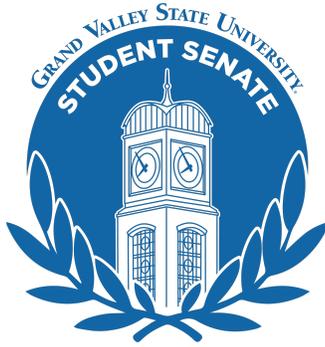
~~g. External Relations – Justin Frappier~~

~~XI. Subcommittee Reports~~

~~XII. University Committee Reports~~

XIII. Roll Call - Part II

XIV. Call for Announcements



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- a. VP Kidd
 - i. Asks that you contact her or VP Gineman to help with the 9/11 service project on Saturday
 - ii. EAC is Meeting in 15 min
 - iii. Would love for you wear pink next week to celebrate her and VP Gineman's birthday
- b. VP Gineman
 - i. DAC is meeting after GA
- c. VP Frappier
 - i. ERC is meeting after GA
 - ii. Look over report for BOV update
 - iii. If you have extra time in office hours reach out to other VPs to help
- d. VP Krichevsky requests you to bring placards to her after meeting

XV. **Adjournment: 7:26pm**